MARVEL

ALPHA™

BIG TIME

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

FIALKOV
PLATI

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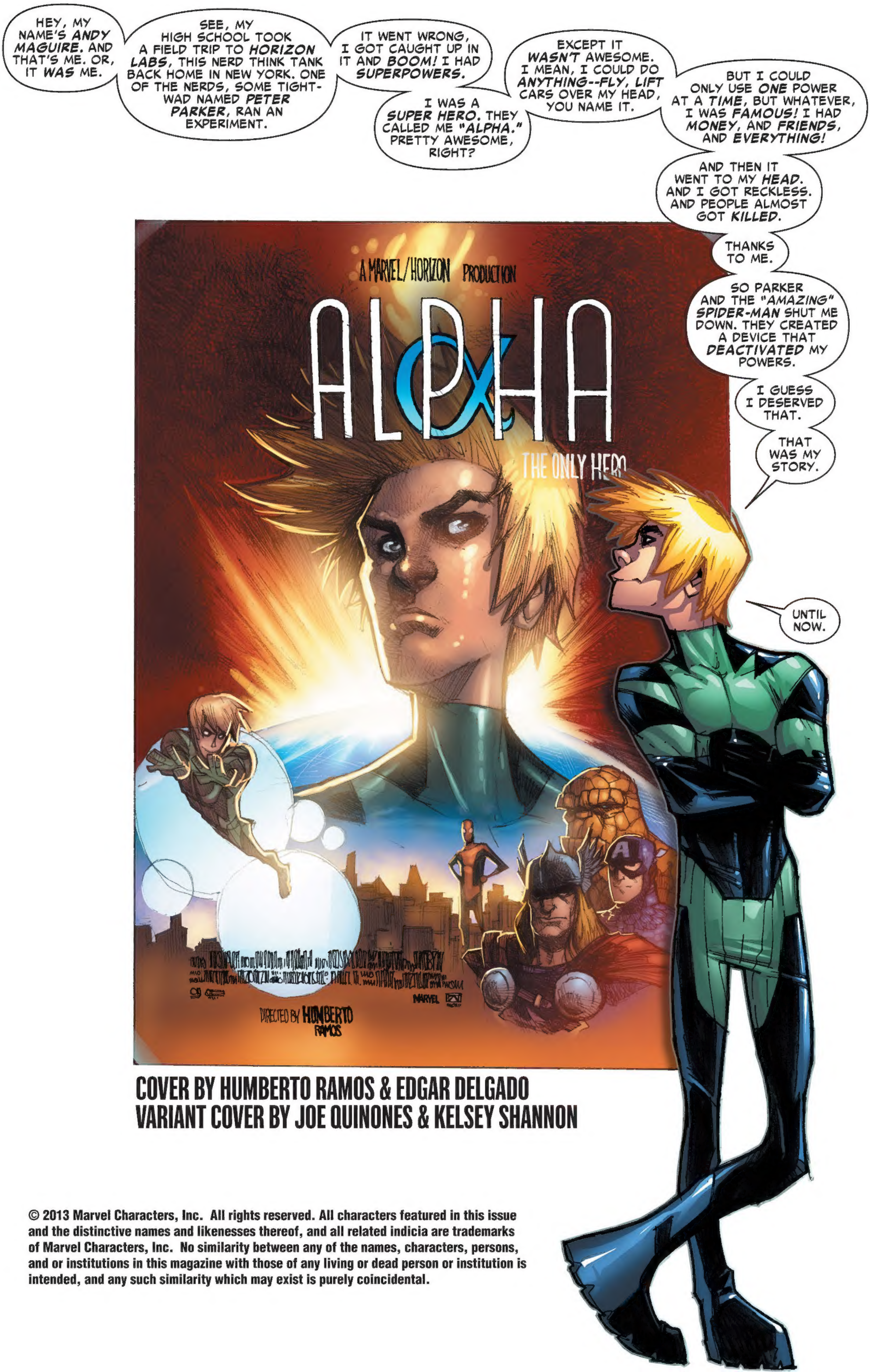
HEY, MY NAME'S ANDY MAGUIRE. AND THAT'S ME. OR, IT WAS ME.
SEE, MY HIGH SCHOOL TOOK A FIELD TRIP TO HORIZON LABS, THIS NERD THINK TANK BACK HOME IN NEW YORK. ONE OF THE NERDS, SOME TIGHT-WAD NAMED PETER PARKER, RAN AN EXPERIMENT.
IT WENT WRONG, I GOT CAUGHT UP IN IT AND BOOM! I HAD SUPERPOWERS.
I WAS A SUPER HERO. THEY CALLED ME "ALPHA." PRETTY AWESOME, RIGHT?
EXCEPT IT WASN'T AWESOME. I MEAN, I COULD DO ANYTHING--FLY, LIFT CARS OVER MY HEAD, YOU NAME IT.
BUT I COULD ONLY USE ONE POWER AT A TIME, BUT WHATEVER, I WAS FAMOUS! I HAD MONEY, AND FRIENDS, AND EVERYTHING!
AND THEN IT WENT TO MY HEAD. AND I GOT RECKLESS. AND PEOPLE ALMOST GOT KILLED.
THANKS TO ME.
SO PARKER AND THE "AMAZING" SPIDER-MAN SHUT ME DOWN. THEY CREATED A DEVICE THAT DEACTIVATED MY POWERS.
I GUESS I DESERVED THAT.
THAT WAS MY STORY.
UNTIL NOW.
A MARVEL/HORIZON PRODUCTION
ALPHA
THE ONLY HERO
DIRECTED BY HUMBERTO RAMOS
MARVEL

COVER BY HUMBERTO RAMOS & EDGAR DELGADO
VARIANT COVER BY JOE QUINONES & KELSEY SHANNON

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SIX MONTHS AGO. THIS WAS WHERE I ATE LUNCH WITH THE REGULAR KIDS.

I WASN'T THE MOST POPULAR, BUT, Y'KNOW. FINE.

THEN, LIKE FOUR MONTHS AGO, I GOT TO SIT HERE.

WITH ALL THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE.

HOW'D I GET POPULAR ALL OF THE SUDDEN?

SEE, I WAS IN THIS ACCIDENT AT A SCIENCE LAB THAT GAVE ME POWERS. I WAS SUPER-STRONG, SUPER-FAST, AND COULD DO, LIKE, LITERALLY ANYTHING.

I ALSO BEAT UP SOME BIG ALIEN DUDE WITH A SPACE PITCHFORK.

SO...Y'KNOW... *POPULAR.*

AFTER THAT, THEY TOOK AWAY MY POWERS, AND NOW I SIT HERE.

BUT THE REALITY IS THAT IF A SINGLE DROP OF THE SLUDGE COULD CREATE LIFE, WHY WOULD THE *SAME* DROP MAKE THAT LADY GIVE BIRTH TO A SQUID, RIGHT?

YEAH. THAT MAKES NO SENSE.

I KNOW! AND FURTHERMORE...

...WHY WOULD THAT SQUID BECOME A FACEHUGGER--

HEY HERO!

THINK FAST!

WHO AM I?

I USED TO BE BIG TIME

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I USED TO BE *ALPHA*.

+SIGH+

MILK

HEY, ASSHAT! YOU ALMOST GOT SOME ON ME!

WHAT'RE *YOU* LOOKING AT?

NOTHING.

I LOVE YOU.

SUSAN "*SOUPCAN*" RICE AND DUNCAN KILGORE. THE ONLY KIDS LAME ENOUGH TO SIT NEAR ME.

NOT "*WITH*" ME, JUST "*NEAR*" ME.

HALF OF THE KIDS HERE THINK I'M A FREAK AND THE OTHER HALF THINK I'M A DANGEROUS FREAK.

WHICH MEANS I *SHOULD* GET LEFT ALONE.

BUT I DON'T.

AFTER MY FOLKS SPLIT UP, MY MOM AND I MOVED TO MY GRANDMA'S PLACE HERE IN PITTSBURGH SO THAT I COULD START OVER.

IT'S GOING *GREAT.*

HEY, ALPHA--

YEAH, WHAT?

YEAH.

SO, YOU SCORED WITH LIKE, DOZENS OF CHICKS, RIGHT?

AND YOU KNOW THAT NOW THAT YOU DON'T HAVE POWERS YOU'LL LITERALLY *NEVER* GET LAID AGAIN, RIGHT?

YEAH?

SO WHAT'S *YOUR* EXCUSE?

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

I DO STILL HAVE POWERS BARELY.

BUT I CAN'T USE 'EM.

THE JERKS AT *HORIZON LABS* SHUT THEM DOWN ON ME.

'CAUSE...WELL, I'M NOT *"RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH."*

UM. I THOUGHT I *WAS* USING THEM RIGHT THEN, THOUGH.

YOU OKAY, SON?

HUH?

HA HA HA HA!

DUDE, YOU PUNCH LIKE ANT-MAN!

I...HE STARTED IT!

I KNOW. IT'S OKAY.

YOU'RE A GOOD KID, ANDY. DON'T LET THESE JERKS MAKE YOU FORGET THAT.

THANKS MR. MARKAZENIE.

CALL ME *PRINCIPAL MARKAZENIE,* ANDY.

OH. YEAH. SORRY.

YOUR *"RIDE"* IS HERE, BY THE WAY.

SO THERE'S ONE THING THAT MAKES MY MISERABLE LIFE FEEL SLIGHTLY LESS MISERABLE.

EVERY COUPLE OF WEEKS, I GET LOADED ON A PRIVATE JET OWNED BY *HORIZON LABS*.

AND THEY FLY ME TO NEW YORK CITY. TO SEE MY DAD AND TO GET TESTED. MAKE SURE I'M NOT A "*GLOBAL THREAT*" OR SOMETHING.

PETER PARKER. THE GUY WHO SCREWED UP MY LIFE.

GUY WAS SHOWING OFF HIS "*PARKER PARTICLES.*"

AND ZAPPED ME. TRIED TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO, AND TEACH ME LESSONS, AND WHAT HAVE YOU. MOSTLY JUST GOT ME INTO MORE TROUBLE--

UGH. WHAT A TOOL.

ANDY MAGUIRE.

SUIT UP. TODAY IS YOUR LUCKY DAY.

YEAH, PARKER? YOU POKING AND PRODDING ME ISN'T MY IDEA OF A--

NO POKING AND PRODDING. TODAY, I'M FIXING ONE OF PETER PARKER'S *BIGGEST* MISTAKES.

HORIZON

HORIZON

YOU.

ALSO A MODEST AMOUNT OF POKING AND PRODDING.*

*WHY'S PETER PARKER ACTING SO DIFFERENT? HE'S COME DOWN WITH A CASE OF DOCTOR OCTOPUS-BRAIN-SWAP-ITIS! SEE ASM #700 & SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #1 FOR MORE!
--ALWAYS BE SELLIN' TOM

UH, PETER... THIS IS...REALLY... HARD.

YES, THAT'S THE POINT.

NO, LIKE, I THINK IT MIGHT KILL ME--

GAH!

DUDE! SERIOUSLY?!?

I KNEW YOU'D GET OUT OF THE WAY.

HORIZ

YOU'LL LIKE THIS ONE, C'MON.

THERE IS *SO MUCH* WRONG WITH YOU.

SOON...

UH, WHAT'S THIS TESTING?

DON'T WORRY. IT'S UNDER CONTROL.

I...WASN'T A VERY GOOD MENTOR TO YOU, ANDY.

I'M SORRY FOR HAVING FAILED YOU.

NO, I WAS SORT OF A WIENER, TOO, I GUESS.

I'M PRETTY SURE WE WERE BOTH "*THE WIENERS.*"

ANDY, I WANT YOU TO KNOW, I TRUST YOU.

OH. THANKS.

ONE LAST TEST, THEN WE'LL HAVE A TALK, YES?

OKAY.

THIS MIGHT TICKLE A BIT.

HOW WOULD YOU RATE THAT?
GUUUUUUH.
GUUUUH. I SEE.
OKAY, MEET ME IN THE NEXT ROOM, PLEASE.
OOPS! BETTER UNDO THE MANACLES.
"ANDY, I'VE BEEN THINKING."

SINCE THE LAST "*INCIDENT*"* YOU'VE BEEN BEHAVING YOURSELF EXCELLENTLY.

YOUR RESIDUAL POWER LEVEL IS UNDER CONTROL, AND YOU'VE HANDLED THE RESPONSIBILITY.

HORIZON

*ASM #694 --TOM

YEAH, LOOK, I DON'T REALLY WANT A REPORT CARD--

NO, OF COURSE NOT.

AS I SAID, I WAS UNFAIR TO YOU. DIDN'T TRUST YOU.

YOU COULD SAY I CREATED A MONSTER. *TWICE.*

IF YOU HAD YOUR POWERS BACK, KNOWING WHAT YOU DO NOW...

...WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH THEM?

HORIZON

I DUNNO.

HELP PEOPLE AND STUFF.

I'M GOING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING SOMEONE VERY SMART ONCE TOLD ME.

"WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT OPPORTUNITY."

BEFORE, YOU SQUANDERED YOUR GIFTS.

...BUT NOW, YOU'VE LEARNED. YOU'VE BECOME A BETTER MAN.

AND NOW YOU HAVE *ME* TO HELP YOU.

YEAH, NO OFFENSE, MAN, BUT, UH...

I MEAN, YOU HELPED ME BEFORE, AND YOU KINDA *SUCKED* AT IT.

I ALMOST KILLED ALL THOSE PEOPLE.

OMELETS. EGGS.

WHAT IS GOING ON RIGHT NOW?

FOLLOW ME, BOY.

NO WAY!

SPIDER-MAN AND I AGREED IT WAS BEST TO TAKE AWAY YOUR POWERS. BUT, NOW THAT I'VE THOUGHT IT THROUGH...

...WE'RE GOING TO START GIVING THEM BACK TO YOU. A LITTLE BIT AT A TIME.

YOU KEEP DOING WELL, AND YOU'LL BE *ALPHA* ONCE MORE.

WHOA, HOLD ON--

I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING! WHY WOULD YOU SUDDENLY CHANGE--

BECAUSE I ***BELIEVE*** IN YOU. EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.

NOW GET IN THE MACHINE BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND.

IS THIS GOING TO HURT?

YES, BUT IT'S WORTH IT.

HOW MUCH IS THIS?

HOW MUCH OF MY POWERS?

ROUGHLY TEN PERCENT OF YOUR FULL POWER.

I FEEL...DIFFERENT.

FLIGHT.

ENERGY BLASTS.

NIGH-INVULNERABILITY.

LOW-LEVEL TELEKINESIS.

MATTER MANIPULATION.

SCALED DOWN, BUT ALL *THERE*.

YOU CAN USE THEM WHENEVER YOU WANT, HOWEVER YOU WANT, BUT, REMEMBER...

RESPONSIBILITY. OPPORTUNITY.

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, DON'T BE A *"WIENER."*

DONE.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, ANDY.

AND I ALMOST FEEL GUILTY USING HIM.

HUH. I...ALMOST HAD SECOND THOUGHTS.

NO MATTER. I WILL HARNESS THE POWER OF PARKER PARTICLES LIKE PARKER *NEVER* COULD.

THIS!
THIS!
THIS!
I MISSED IT SO MUCH.
GAAAAAAH!!! SO AWESOME!!!

YOU WATCH MOVIES AND YOU READ COMICS AND YOU DREAM. BUT *NOTHING* COMPARES TO THIS.

FLYING.

FREEDOM.

NOT EVEN GRAVITY EXPECTS ANYTHING FROM YOU.

HOME SWEET HOME. NYC TO PITTSBURGH IN EIGHT MINUTES. THAT'S, LIKE, 10,000 MILES PER HOUR, RIGHT? I CAN SEE THE WHOLE CITY FROM UP HE--

WHOA. FIRE. COOL.

OH. RIGHT. GOTTA GO BE A HERO.

OKAY, GREAT POWER. HERE'S YOUR GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

OH. CRAP. SECRET IDENTITY!

NOT SCREWING *THAT* UP AGAIN.

ANDY MAGUIRE... *NO MORE!*

WORRY NOT, FIREGUYS! I'VE GOT THIS.

KID, GET OUT OF THE--

TRUST ME. I...CAN... DO...THIS...

HE'S... ABSORBING THE FIRE...

HOLY CRAP.

HEY. AREN'T YOU THAT DOOFY KID FROM TV?

NO. THAT WAS SOMEONE ELSE.

YEAH, THAT WAS TOTALLY THAT DOOFY KID FROM TV.

OMEGA, RIGHT?

NAH, I THINK THAT WAS ALPHA FLIGHT.

YOU'RE AN IDIOT. ALPHA FLIGHT *IS* A ROBOT.

OKAY. JOB WELL DONE. SAVED THE DAY. STAYED ANONYMOUS.

WIN!

HELP!

OOP. I'M ON!

WHAT THE HE--

PUT THE KNIFE DOWN AND LET THE LADY GO.

SWEET. I JUST SAID THAT THING SUPER HEROES SAY!

BACK OFF, MAN!

LISTEN, DUDE. NOBODY HAS TO GET HURT OR ANYTHING--

UH...

OUCH. THAT TICKLED.

SHOVE

WHO...

YOU'RE THAT DUMB SUPER HERO KID!

HELLO? DUDE. THAT WAS SOMEBODY ELSE. I'M A NEW HERO. NAME'S, UH...*BETA?*

NO, THAT SUCKS--

I HEARD YOU LOST YOUR POWERS.

UH, YOUR KNIFE JUST BROKE WHEN I BRUSHED UP AGAINST IT.

BACK OFF!

WAIT, YOU GUYS *REALLY* DO STUFF LIKE THIS?

THUGS.

I MEAN, I'VE GOT THE TIGHT CLOTHES, THE KEEN MASK. I'M CLEARLY THE *GOOD* GUY. YOU'RE CLEARLY THE *BAD* GUY.

I'LL... I'LL DO IT!

CLK

OKAY.
I TRIED.

NOW YOU
FALL DOWN,
'KAY?

OH GOD.
OH GOD.
OH GOD.
PETER SAID THAT WAS 10% OF MY POWER. *TEN FREAKING PERCENT.*
I'M IN SO MUCH TROUBLE RIGHT NOW.
TO BE CONTINUED!

ALPHA MAIL

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A young hero, inspired by a noble mentor to be the best, but stymied by his own inner desire to be a total jerk. Anyone who knows me, Tom Brennan, and my relationship with my boss, Stephen Wacker, knows the story of Alpha is my story. In many ways, it's all of our stories. But it's definitely my story. Welcome, friends, to Alpha Mail – you're page to talk about Alpha, his journey, and how it will change the Marvel Universe forever. Also, if you happen to be from Pittsburgh and want to give us insight, we'll take that as well.

On behalf of Josh Fialkov, Nuno Plati and the rest of our team, we want to welcome you to the next generation of Marvel heroes. We also want to thank Dan Slott, Humberto Ramos, Stephen Wacker, Ellie Pyle and the rest of Team Spidey for their help in bringing you, the reader, Alpha: BIG TIME. We hope you survive the experience.

Speaking of survivin', writer Josh Fialkov wanted to say a few words:

Hey Alphites,

Thanks so much for taking the time to give our book a read. Nuno and I have worked our butts off to give you something truly unique, and I hope you enjoyed your first peek.

This is a book about expectations. Andy was introduced to the world (both in the story and in the PR) as a big deal. A change in the world of one of the most beloved characters in fictive history. And consequently, after his introduction, people went after him with pitchforks and torches.

That was the point of the character. He was to prove just how special Peter is. How unique his world view and behavior are, and, y'know, how amazing the little teenager created by Stan and Steve was.

Andy Maguire is NOT Peter Parker. Many have pointed that out. What Andy is is a teenager. A teenager with expectations on him. People expect that he's a powerful threat to the world, a menace, a had-been, and, most of all, a jerk. That's a lot to deal with as well as trying to pass Trig.

If Peter Parker is who we all wish we could be, Andy Maguire is a bit closer to who we actually are. Each of us has made mistakes, and we've had to deal with the long term effects of them. Each of us wishes we could get a redo. Each of us wishes for fame and fortune and swears that they won't change. Each of us is kind of a jerk.

But we all try to be better. And this mini-series is about Andy doing just that.

And punching things. Really, really hard.

See you in 30,
Joshua Hale Fialkov
North Hollywood, CA

We will indeed see you folks in 30 days, but you don't have to wait that long to send us your thoughts, praises, and angry letters – write us at spideroffice@marvel.com (mark OK to Print) and we'll run it in the mag!

Keep your head up,
Temerarious Tom

NEXT ISSUE:

THE GREATEST AMERICAN HERO!

ZONE